

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS OPIC, EXIMBANK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, BGEN, SL

SUBJECT: STEVENS SPEECH ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
AGRO-INDUSTRY

REF: FREETOWN'S A-088 OF NOVEMBER 28, 1974

1. IN RECENT MAJOR SPEECH AT OPENING OF BO AGRICULTURAL FAIR, PRESIDENT STEVENS INDICATED GOSL INTENTION TO EMPHASIZE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BY SEEKING FOREIGN INVESTORS TO DEVELOP PLANTATION AGRICULTURE AND TO ESTABLISH FOOD PROCESSING AND CANNING PLANTS. PRESIDENT ADDED THAT FOREIGN DEVELOPED PLANTATIONS MAY REQUIRE CHANGES IN LAND TENURE LAWS AND TRADITIONS.

2. EMBASSY AWARE OF TWO THREE POSSIBLE PROJECTS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION INVOLVING DEVELOPMENT OF PLANTATION AGRICULTURE IN SIERRA LEONE. FIRST INVOLVES PINEAPPLES/TOMATO PASTE COMPLEX DESCRIBED IN REPAIR. SECOND IS LARGE RICE PLANTATION ENVISIONED BY TWO AMERICAN BUSINESS PROMOTERS. THIRD IS SUGAR CANE PLANTATION & MILL BEING DEVELOPED BY CHINESE. THERE ALSO EXIST A NUMBER OF POTENTIAL PROJECTS FOR THE PROCESSING OF RUBBER, PALM OIL AND CACAO, ALL OF WHICH NOW GROWN IN SIERRA LEONE.

3. EMBASSY FEELS THAT STEVENS STATEMENT IS SIGNIFICANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT GOSL POLICIES HAVE NOT HITHERTOFORE
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PROVIDED ADEQUATE FRAMEWORK FOR INVESTORS IN PLANTATION

AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-INDUSTRIES.

SAMUELS

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